

VZCZCXYZ0007
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHUL #0067 0140743
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 140743Z JAN 09
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2907

UNCLAS SEOUL 000067

SIPDIS

FOR EEB/ESC/DMONOSSON AND OES/EGC/GTHOMPSON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: ENRG EUN GM KS PGOV SENV

SUBJECT: INTERIM KOREAN RESPONSE: DEMARCHE ON THE
INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY (IRENA)

REF: STATE 134385

ESTH Officer delivered Reftel message requesting posts to explain USG opposition to IRENA and report host country positions to Yoo Yeon-chul, Director of the Energy and Resources Cooperation Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade on January 14. Director Yoo was familiar with the German initiative to create the IRENA, but said his ministry had not yet decided whether it would support the initiative or participate in the meeting at the end of this month to launch the agency. He thanked ESTH Officer for explaining the USG views and said he would carefully consider those views in forming the South Korean position on IRENA. He also promised to inform ESTH Officer in the next few days whether South Korea would attend the IRENA launch meeting.

STEPHENS